500.37600CX1

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Masahiro KOYAMA et al.

Serial No.:

Rule 53(b) of U.S. Application No. 09/398,776

Filed:

March 31, 2004

For:

DECENTRALIZED CONTROL SYSTEM FOR NETWORK

CONNECTION

Group:

Not yet assigned

Examiner:

Not yet assigned

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 March 31, 2004

Sir:

Before examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification and Abstract begin on page 2.

Remarks are included following the amendments.